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About 50 steerage passengers from Hungary via Trieste were not permitted to embark.

On December 2, to the steamship *Alsatia* of the Anchor Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 211 steerage passengers, and 51 pieces of small and 133 pieces of large baggage.

On December 2, to the steamship *Spartan Prince*, of the Prince Line. There were inspected and passed 4 cabin and 628 steerage passengers, and 193 pieces of large and 634 pieces of small baggage.

On December 2, to the British steamship *Heighington*, bound in water ballast for Key West, Fla.

Respectfully,

ENRICO BUONOCORE,

Temporary Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Modification of quarantine against vessels from Egypt.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 8, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform your excellency that by order No. 15 of maritime sanitation the Italian Government has abrogated articles 2 and 3 of the preceding order No. 14 of November 7 last.

Thus the period of seven days of observation which was enforced on vessels with clean bills of health coming from Egypt to any of the ports of the Kingdom is suppressed and they shall be admitted at once to free pratique under the provisions prescribed by order No. 3.

However, the crew and passengers of such vessels remain subject to the ten days' sanitary observation in the localities of their destination.

Respectfully,

FAVA, *Ambassador.*

HON. SECRETARY OF STATE.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Plague at Kobe and Osaka.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *November 24, 1899.*

SIR: Under dates of November 15 and 16, I reported 1 case of plague as having occurred at Hiroshima on the 5th, and the outbreak of the same disease at Kobe to the extent of 5 cases. Since last writing, so far as I have been able to learn, no second case has occurred at Hiroshima, and but 3 more undoubted instances of the malady have been met with at Kobe, making 8 in all at the latter place, 1 each on November 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17, all attacked having died.

At Osaka, a very large manufacturing city some 30 miles from Kobe, on the 20th, 2 little girls were seized with plague after a visit of 1 of them to a cotton mill where old cotton, suspected to be of the lot from Niuchwang referred to in my letter of the 15th, was being worked up. Both of these girls, sisters, are dead. This makes 10 cases in all to the present date.

Many suspected cases have been reported from Kobe and its neighborhood which, under observation, have been found to be of other disease.

The Government has taken very active measures, briefly as follows:

(1) Professor Kitasato, with several expert assistants, was sent to Kobe at the news of the first case. He, intrusted with full powers, has

called to him from various parts of the country a large number of physicians more or less trained by himself, and 40 or 50 of these have already arrived in the epidemic district.

(2) A thorough examination of all persons well or ill who can possibly be supposed to have been exposed to infection is being made in Kobe and its neighborhood, as well as at Osaka.

(3) A careful examination is made of all passengers leaving Kobe or Osaka, either by steamer or railway, before embarkation, and, at Kobe, a locally prominent English medical man is employed for this work in association with the Japanese doctors.

(4) Thorough examination of passengers by rail is also made at several points on each of the different railways connecting with both Kobe and Osaka, north and south of these cities.

(5) A general cleaning and disinfecting of all cities and towns, not only inside of but beyond the present area of the epidemic, is being carried out under the superintendence of the police, and an energetic campaign against the pathogenic rat has been inaugurated in compliance with the published advice of Professor Kitasato and other experts.

(6) The laws of marine quarantine are being applied with almost excessive stringency, or what would seem excessive were the personnel of the quarantine force of higher and more experienced character.

At present it looks as though the efforts for the suppression of the epidemic may be successful, though it must not be forgotten that cold weather is just beginning and is, probably, most unfavorable to the development of the disease. It is to be hoped that the measures taken may be so thorough as not only to stamp out the present outbreak, but to afford security against its renewal next spring.

In connection with the apparent origin of the disease from old cotton imported from a plague center, I would add that all materials of this class are now destroyed wherever found, if of Chinese origin, in connection with the cleansing operations now being carried out.

In 1894, when upon myself, as a member of the imperial board of health, happened to fall the chief responsibility for preparing special rules and regulations to avoid the importation of plague from Hong-kong, where it had just broken out, I stringently prohibited the admission of rags, old cotton, or old clothing, among other things, and put the period of quarantine for plague at nine days. Later, after the study of the disease made by Professors Kitasato and Awoyama, the regulations were changed and these prohibitions ceased to be effective, with what disastrous results is now shown; while the period of detention was reduced to seven days, in my opinion, another great mistake.

In accordance with your cable dispatch of the 16th instant, I immediately appointed as Acting Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S., at Kobe, Dr. J. Bucknill Fowler, the only available man, and, fortunately, a very good one. He has accepted the appointment; I have instructed him to the best of my ability, and he has entered upon his duties.

As I understand this appointment to be one of emergency only, and so, it is to be hoped, temporary, I shall be glad to have instructions as to the conditions which should govern the period of Dr. Fowler's service.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Sanitary Inspector, Yokohama.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.